

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A file server system comprising:
 a plurality of hard disk drives connected to
 a plurality of clients via a network; and
 a file control unit connected to the network
 for accepting an access request from said clients to
 said hard disk drives to manage the data input/output
 of said plurality of hard disk drives,
 wherein said file control unit has configura-
 tion information with which a plurality of pieces of
 identification (ID) information, each identifying one
 of said plurality of hard disk drives, can be
 registered and
 said file control unit broadcasts a hard disk
 drive search message via said network,
 wherein, in response to the hard disk drive
 search message, said hard disk drive returns the ID
 information specifying the self hard disk drive to said
 file control unit, and
 wherein, in response to the returned ID
 information, said file control unit establishes a
 setting such that the hard disk drive, which has
 returned the ID information, cannot communicate with
 devices on said network other than said file control
 unit.
2. The file server system according to claim 1,
 further comprising a management terminal connected to
 said file control unit to perform maintenance work.

3. The file server system according to claim 2, further comprising a firewall connected between said file control unit and said hard disk drives for controlling communication between said management terminal and said hard disk drives.

4. The file server system according to claim 2, wherein said file control unit comprises a priority unit that puts a higher priority on communication with said management terminal than on communication with said clients and on communication with said hard disk drives.

5. The file server system according to claim 1, wherein said file control unit and said plurality of hard disk drives have an iSCSI internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) interface for communication on the network using the internet protocol (IP).

6. The file server system according to claim 1, wherein said hard disk drive has a judgment unit that permits or inhibits communication with a device that issues, via said network, a permission to communicate with said hard disk drive, said device being connected to said network.

7. The file server system according to claim 6, wherein said hard disk drive comprises authentication information with which identifiers of part or all devices connected to said network and authentication codes corresponding to the identifiers

of the devices can be registered, said identifiers being used on said network and

wherein, upon receiving a communication permission from a device on said network, said hard disk drive compares an authentication code sent by the device with the authentication codes registered with the authentication information, permits communication if a match is found, and inhibits communication if a match is not found.

8. The file server system according to claim 7, wherein said hard disk drive changes the authentication information according to an authentication information-change instruction received via the network.

9. The file server system according to claim 8, wherein said file control unit issues the authentication information-change instruction to said hard disk drive at system startup time to inhibit said hard disk drive from communicating with devices other than said file control unit.

10. The file server system according to claim 1, wherein said file control unit comprises setting means that allows a manager of said file server system to set a ratio of an amount of data transferred in a communication between said file control unit and said clients to an amount of data transferred in a communication between said file control unit and said hard disk drives and

wherein the amount of data transferred in the communication between said file control unit and said clients and the amount of data transferred in the communication between said file control unit and said hard disk drives are measured to control a priority of communication processing so that a ratio that is obtained by the measured data amounts approaches the ratio that is set.

11. A file server system comprising:

a plurality of switching hubs interconnected to form a network;

a plurality of hard disk drives connected to clients via the network; and

a file control unit,

each of said plurality of hard disk drives being connected to one of said plurality of switching hubs, said file control unit being connected to one of said plurality of switching hubs, said file control unit accepting an access request from said clients to said hard disk drives to manage a data input/output of said plurality of hard disk drives,

wherein said switching hubs perform control so that said file control unit and said plurality of clients belong to a virtual network and so that said file control unit and said plurality of hard disk drives belong to another virtual network.

12. The file server system according to claim 11, further comprising a management terminal connected to

one of said plurality of switching hubs to perform maintenance work for said file control unit.

13. The file server system according to claim 12, wherein said switching hubs perform control so that said file control unit and said plurality of clients belong to a virtual network, so that said file control unit and said plurality of hard disk drives belong to another virtual network, and so that said file control unit and said management terminal belong to a third virtual network different from said two virtual networks.

14. The file server system according to claim 13, wherein said virtual network is a virtual LAN.